

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 ACDA-12 AID-05 MCE-00
OMB-01 EUR-12 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2774
INFO AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN
USMTM DHAHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 5342

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, SA, US, YE
SUBJECT: U.S. - SAUDI MILITARY SUPPORT FOR YAR

REF: JIDDA 5341

1. THE EMBASSY AND USMTM HAVE BGEEN ENGAGED IN CONVERSATIONS
IN PREPARATION FOR JULY 29 MEETING ON HOW TO INCREASE
EFFECTIVENESS OF US-SAUDI MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO
YAR. AS RESULT OF THESE CONVERSATIONS AND CONVERSATIONS
WITH UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM DURING HIS VISIT TO SAUDI ARA-
BIA, WE SEE THREE POSSIBLE OPTIONS WHICH WE CAN PRESENT ON
JULY 29 FOR SPEEDY SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR YAR. THESE THREE
OPTIONS INVOLVE TRANSFER OF F-5B'S TO YAR.
FIRST OPTION. TRANSFER OF F5B'S.
MAINTENANCE AND PILOT TRAINING TO BE PERFORMED BY US
COMPANY ON COMMERCIAL CONTRACT. THIS COULD PROBABLY BE ARRANGED
WITHIN SPACE OF TWO TO THREE MONTHS. NO FMS INVOLVED.
SECOND OPTION. TRANSFER OF F5B'S.

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MAINTENANCE TO BE PERFORMED BY US COMPANY ON CONTRACT.
PILOT TRAINING TO BE CARRIED OUT BY US AND OR SAUDI
INSTRUCTORS. EXTENSION OF PEACE HAWK PROGRAM FROM SAUDI
ARABIA. THIS COULD PROBABLY BE ARRANGED WITHIN SPACE OF
THREE TO FOUR MONTHS AND WOULD INVOLVE SOME FMS THROUGH
SAUDI ARABIA.
THIRD OPTION. TRANSFER OF F5B'S AND ESTABLISHMENT

OF MAAG IN YAR AND PROGRAM SIMILAR TO DET 22 IN SAUDI ARABIA. THIS WOULD BE STRAIGHT FMS CASE, AND IT COULD BE US-YAR BILATERAL OR US-YAR -SAUDI ARABIA TRILATERAL. IT COULD BE ARRANGED WITHIN FOUR TO FIVE MONTHS.

2. IF EITHER OPTION TWO OR THREE WERE SELECTED WE THINK THAT USSR MAY REACT BY TERMINATING ITS MILITARY TRAINING MISSION IN YAR. EVEN IF THEY DO NOT, WE MIGHT BE IN POSITION TO PERSUADE YARG TO TERMINATE THEM. AN OPPOR-

TUNITY TO SUPPLANT THE SOVIET TRAINING MISSION, SOMETHING WHICH SHOULD APPEAL TO SAG.

3. WHEN RUSSIAN TRAINERS LEAVE, IT WILL ALSO MEAN THAT YAR WILL WANT SOMEONE ELSE TO TAKE OVER THE TRAINING PROGRAMS THEY HAVE ABANDONED. WE DO NOT THINK SAG IS CAPABLE OF DOING THAT. US SHOULD THEREFORE BE PREPARED TO STEP IN AND FILL THE GAP EITHER THROUGH HELPING ARRANGE FOR JORDANIANS OR PAKISTANIS TO TAKE PLACE OF RUSSIANS OR THROUGH US-YAR BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT FOR MAAG MISSION. WE DO NOT THINK SAUDIS WOULD OBJECT TO EITHER US OR THIRD COUNTRY TRAINERS. BUT YAR MAY INSIST ON US OR SAUDI SECURITY GUARANTEE DURING TRANSITION PERIOD.

4. ANOTHER EFFECTIVENESS OF US-SAUDI MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YAR IS QUESTION OF TRIPARTITE COORDINATION.
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IN PAST, WE HAVE TRIED TO KEEP SAUDIS OUT FRONT AND WE HAVE ALLOWED THEM TO BECOME THE CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH YAR. WE FEEL THAT IF PROGRAM IS GOING TO BE EFFECTIVE, ESPECIALLY IF IT IS ENLARGED, WE MUST HAVE OPTION OF COMMUNICATING DIRECTLY WITH YARG. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM RAISED THIS POINT IN PRIVATE AFFAIRS ABD AL-RAHMAN MANSOURI ON JULY 18 AND SUGGESTED THAT YARG BE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO JULY 29 MEETING. MANSOURI OPPOSED INCLUSION OF YARG IN JULY 29 MEETING, SAYING THAT USG AND SAG HAD TO GET CLEAR UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THEMSELVES BEFORE TALKING TO YARG. HE ALSO SAID THAT FOR HIS PART AS DEP FON MIN HE WAS STILL OPPOSED TO USG DEALING DIRECTLY WITH YARG ON MILITARY SUPPORT PROGRAM BUT THAT US SIDE COULD RAISE MATTER FOR DISCUSSION AT JULY 29 MEETING IF IT WISHED.

5. IN REGARD TO QUESTION OF DEALING DIRECTLY WITH YARG, WE THINK WE CAN LIVE WITH SAG POSITION THAT WE MEET ON JULY 29 WITHOUT YAR PARTICIPATION. HOWEVER, WE SHOULD INSIST AT MEETING THAT FUTURE CONSULTATIONS BE TRULY TRIPARTITE, I.E. WITH SAG, YARG, AND USG ALL TALKING

AND CONFERRING WITH EACH OTHER. WE SHOULD TELL SAUDIS
ON JULY 29 THAT (1) UNLESS WE ARE ALLOWED TO DEAL DIRECTLY
WITH YARG, WHOLE PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE TO SUFFER BADLY
AND (2) USG ALSO HAS RELATIONS WITH YARG AND WE FEEL THAT
WE MUST BE ABLE TO TALK TO THEM DIRECTLY SO AS NOT TO OFFEND
THEIR SENSITIVITIES. IN OTHER WORDS, SAG AND USG HAVE TO
LOCK ARMS, THEN GRAB YARG BY ARM, AND MOVE TOGETHER IN
LOCK-STEP.

6. WE INVITE COMMENTS OF BOTH SANA AND THE DEPARTMENT.
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